

INDONESIA

was yesterday, before the War, the Netherlands East Indies; tomorrow, in 1949, will become the United States of Indonesia, an equal among the sovereign nations of the world and joined in union with Holland.

INDONESIA is fabulous in a hundred ways; in its diversity of lands and peoples; in its span of cultures, from Stone Age to Modern Western; in its endless bizarre curiosities; in its war-swept history; in its wealth.

INDONESIA is therefore one of the most prolific sources of standing copy in the world.

The following collection of items is provided for free use of newspapers in the United States or for other publications or radio. The items tell no connected story, attempt only to sample Indonesia's rich and fantastic lore.

The contents in whole or in part may be reprinted, as fillers, without acknowledgement.



Indonesia is one of the oldest centers of human life, may have supported humans or near humans for 1,000,000 years.

Pygmy buffalo, about the size of a St. Bernard dog, are found only on Celebes, a main Indonesian island.

Twenty-five foot carnivorous lizards, rivalling the dragons of antiquity, inhabit Komodo Island, Indonesia.

Ashes of the original Buddha, so legend says, underlie Central Java's vast Borobudur Temple, 23 acres in area, 131 feet high, built in the 9th Century.

With 100 of the earth's 300-400 active volcanoes, Indonesia rates as volcano capital of the world.

History's most terrific explosion until Hiroshima was in 1883, when the Indonesian volcanic island Krakatau blew up and vanished. . . . Stone, dust and ashes rocketed 17 miles into the sky. . . . Stratospheric winds carried Krakatau ash to the other ends of the world — the United States, South America, Scandinavia, and intervening points. . . . The skies of Java's greatest city, Batavia, were midnighted out at noon. . . . 50-foot waves drowned 36,000 as they roared through the

Archipelago's thousands of islands. . . . Slowly diminishing in height, the same waves washed clear to the last extremity of the Pacific, at Cape Horn, South America, 8,000 miles away. . . . Some authorities believe the same tidal swell reached out as far as the English Channel, a distance of 11,000 miles. . . . Krakatau Island later re-emerged.

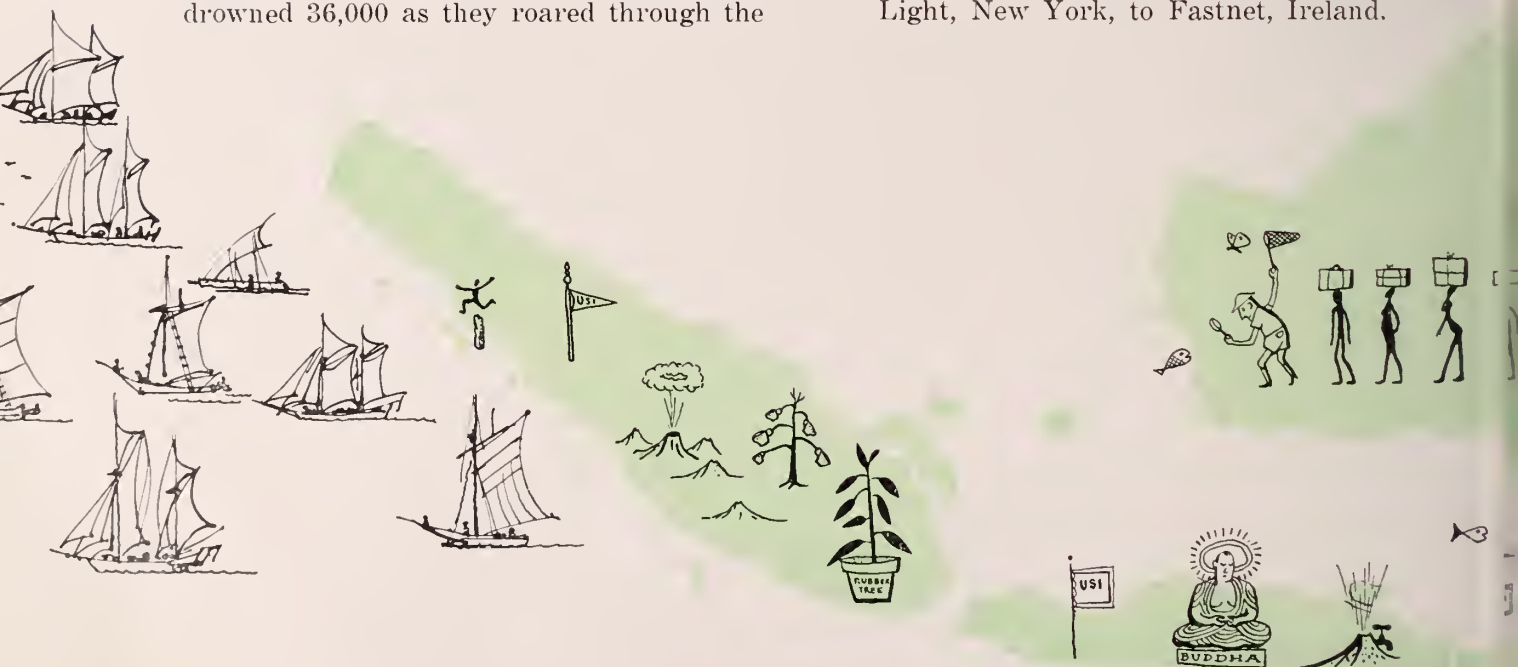
More than 85 per cent of Indonesia's 75,000,000 are Moslem, heritage of Arab influence in mediaeval times.

Indonesia is one of the few countries where Moslem women are customarily unveiled, partly because the Indies are so distant from the Arabian center of Moslem orthodoxy.

A new "United States of Indonesia," its government modelled generally after the USA's, is due to emerge among the world's free nations in 1949. USI will be joined in union with Holland.

Indonesia shares Australia's world monopoly on kangaroos. They live in Dutch New Guinea and some nearby islands.

A boat trip from one end of Indonesia to the other is longer than crossing the Atlantic — 3,200 miles as against 3,012 from Ambrose Light, New York, to Fastnet, Ireland.



Much of Indonesia's wealth is from tropical products introduced by the Dutch. Its rubber came from Brazil back in the 19th century, its cinchona (quinine) tree from Peru, its tea from Japan and China, its coffee from Africa and India. Before the war, Indonesia exported 40% of world's rubber, 90% of quinine, 20% of tea.

The oil palm is not native to Indonesia, but was introduced there from West Africa in 1914. By 1939 — 25 years later — palm-oil production in Indonesia was almost twice that in West Africa.

13th Century Emperor Kublai Khan of China sent a 1,000-ship fleet and an army of 20,000 to punish a local ruler of Java in 1293. Kublai's Ambassador had been sent home with ears and nose cut off.

Mount Kloet, Java, a mud volcano, has a "safety-valve-tunnel" in its side, to prevent such eruptions as that in 1919, when 10,000,000 gallons of water spilled out and killed 550 people.

The Menangkabau Malays, of Sumatra, have a "matrilineal" society in which descent is traced through the female line. Children are reared by the mother's brother, not the father.

The time difference between the longest and

shortest day in Indonesia is only 48 minutes. Its thousands of islands lie evenly along the Equator; they take up $\frac{1}{8}$ the earth's circumference.

Marco Polo visited Sumatra in 1292 on his way home to Venice from the Chinese Court of Emperor Kublai Khan.

"East Indonesia," comprising the eastern part of the Indonesian Archipelago, with a population of 12,000,000, was formed through mutual consultation among Indonesians and Dutch in 1946. It will become a State in the new United States of Indonesia.

A completely independent theory of evolution, paralleling Charles Darwin's, was simultaneously developed in 1858 during an Indonesian research journey by Alfred Russell Wallace, another great British naturalist.

The island of Kisar in the Moluccas, Indonesia, is populated by descendants of a Dutch garrison who were forgotten by the authorities and marooned there about 1620. They inter-married with native people.

Degrees of civilization in Indonesia range all the way from Batavia, an industrial city where many Indonesians speak three or more European languages, to New Guinea where life is still back almost in the Stone Age.



Indonesians fear volcanoes, but settle near them because lava deposits make the soil there the richest in the world.

"The wild man of Borneo," say friendly anthropologists, was not so very wild, really. The purpose of headhunting was not just the sport of shedding blood, but to acquire the victim's courage and other qualities.

Oil was discovered in New Guinea, Indonesia, by mapping the colors of forests by airplane. Trees growing atop oil deposits are lighter green than elsewhere, according to the Archibald Expedition of 1926-27, first surveyors.

The "Renville Agreement" of January 1948, providing the final terms for a political settlement between the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic, was named for the U.S. Navy vessel on which it was negotiated.

At about the same time that Julius Caesar was leading Roman legions into Gaul, Hindu adventurers were invading Indonesia.

The population of Java, its area of 48,000 square miles about equal to New York State, increased from 4,000,000 in 1815 to around 48,000,000 today. Its population density, approximately 1,000 per square mile, is the world's highest. In comparison, New York

State grew from 1,370,000 people in 1820 to 13,500,000 in 1940.

On the island of Nias, Indonesia, the men wear false mustaches and ear-loops reaching to the waist. Minus these encumbrances, their favorite sport is jumping over 6 ft. high, 3 ft. wide stone pillars.

Java, Sumatra, and Borneo, in Indonesia were once part of the Asiatic mainland. Prehistoric earth changes depressed the intervening area, letting in water to form the still shallow Java Sea.

Introduction of modern sanitation and public health measures by Netherlands authorities cut the Indonesian death rate by about 60 per cent between the beginning of the 20th century and 1939.

The "Orang Laut" or "Sea Gypsies" of Indonesia, about 10,000 of them, live on small boats covered with matting, keep chickens, voyage endlessly, go ashore only rarely for vegetables.

Indonesia was normally the pre-war source of 30% of U.S. rubber imports, 96% of quinine, 90% of kapok (for mattresses, life-savers), 97% of pepper, 30% of tea, 10% of tin.



Distributed by the Netherlands Information Bureau, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y., which is registered with the Foreign Agents Registration Section, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., as an agent of the Royal Netherlands Government. A copy of this material is being filed with the Department of Justice, where the registration statement of the Netherlands Information Bureau is available for inspection. Registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act does not indicate approval or disapproval of this material by the United States Government.